

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

From this background, numerous research reports concerning the drying shrinkage have been appearing. The methods which are available for reducing the shrinkage (and consequently repressing the cracking) include a method which utilizes an expansive additive, a method which reduces an unit water content of a concrete composition by using a water-reducing agent, and a method which uses a drying shrinkage-reducing agent, for example. In these methods, the method which reduces the unit water content by the use of a water-reducing agent has been most extensively adopted as the simplest approach. As the water-reducing agents, naphthalene type, aminosulfonic acid type, and polycarboxylic acid type products, and so forth have been now commercially available. In the case of the polycarboxylic acid type air-entraining and high-range water-reducing admixtures having the most outstanding characteristic properties, various water-soluble vinyl copolymers have been proposed (see JP-A HEI 8-53522, JP-A HEI 8-290948, JP-A HEI 8-290955, JP-A HEI 9-2855, and JP-A HEI 10-81549, for example). These water-reducing agents, however, have no fully satisfactory drying shrinkage-reducing property and are recommended to be used in combination with an expansive additive and a drying shrinkage-reducing agent, as occasion demands. As the drying shrinkage-reducing agent to be additionally used in this case, various compounds have been adopted (see JP-A SHO 59-21557, JP-A SHO 62-61450, and JP-A SHO 59-3430, and Japanese Patent No. 2825855, for example). In these publications, JP-A SHO 59-21557 discloses a drying shrinkage-preventing agent for cement which contains a

polymer having propylene oxide and ethylene oxide added thereto. JP-A SHO 62-91450 ~~62-61450~~ discloses a drying shrinkage-reducing agent which contains an alkylene oxide adduct of a diphenyl methane derivative.